

# Connections

WINTER 2007

The Voice of Concordia University's Faculty of Arts and Science

## A Word from the Dean

by Dr. David Graham

One of the best parts about my job as dean of Concordia's largest and most diverse Faculty is that it seems there is always another wonderful new aspect of Arts and Science to discover. Earlier this fall, we discovered some "hidden treasures" belonging to the Faculty when we gathered to present the inaugural Dean's Awards for teaching, research and service to 11 outstanding colleagues from across the Faculty.

They say that no one has ever complained about being thanked too much – no doubt the same truism applies to recognizing the efforts of those around us. All too often we have a tendency to reward good or even excellent performance with silence, simply because we take it as given that those around us will do a good job. It is all the more important, then, to celebrate from time to time the truly outstanding achievements of those members of the Faculty who have been deservedly singled out by their peers.

This year's award winners, determined by a selection committee chaired by Associate Dean Joanne Locke, fall into five categories, of which four concerned the accomplishments of faculty members. We have two Distinguished Scholars: John Harnad of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, winner of the 2006 CRM/CAP Prize in Theoretical and Mathematical Physics, and Ron Rudin, Interim Chair of the Department of History, recognized as "one of the most energetic and provocative historians writing in Canada today." In addition to these senior colleagues, we recognized two New Scholars: Lorenzo DiTommaso (Theological Studies) and Deborah Folaron (Études françaises), both of whom are already establishing international reputations for excellence in their fields. We also celebrated the outstanding teaching of three professors in the Faculty: Svetla Kaménova (Études françaises), Shannon McSheffrey (History) and Sara Weinberg (Education). Their teaching is described by their students as committed, engaging, clear, innovative, energizing and accessible: in other words, as exemplary of the very best Concordia traditions. Finally, Mary Vipond (History) was recognized for her record of Outstanding Academic Service to the Faculty, to Concordia, to the wider community and to national organizations in her discipline, including the Canadian Historical Association; Mary is widely known for embodying "sound advice, good judgment, fairness, leadership, scrupulous integrity and deep commitment to high academic standards."

Our final category recognized the Exceptional Service to the Faculty of three members of the Faculty's support staff. Linda Dubeau, department administrator in Sociology and Anthropology, has for more than 20 years "performed her duties with equanimity,



Back row, left to right: Dr. Ronald Rudin, Department of History; Dr. Shannon McSheffrey, Department of History; Dr. Mary Vipond, Department of History; Dr. John Harnad, Department of Mathematics and Statistics; Dr. David Graham, Dean, Faculty of Arts and Science; Dr. Lorenzo DiTommaso, Department of Theological Studies; Dr. Deborah Folaron, Département d'Études françaises; and Professor Svetla Kaménova, Département d'Études françaises. Front row, left to right: Professor Sara Weinberg, Department of Education; Ms. Linda Dubeau, Department of Sociology and Anthropology; Ms. Lillian Jackson, Science College; and Ms. Jeannie Krumel, Department of Political Science.

grace, and great efficiency... her gentleness (and firmness)," being cited for "her ability to build a team, her steadfastness, her generosity, her humour, her patience and respect for others." Lillian Jackson, Assistant to the Principal of the Science College, is described as someone who "... is deeply concerned with and aware of the individual members' well-being both physically and mentally." It is not surprising, then, that when students return to the College following graduation, the first person they usually want to see is Lillian! Jeannie Krumel, department administrator in Political Science, is known for her "endless patience with the problems and people that are the stuff of both daily occurrences and extraordinary events" and for "responding to each and every challenge with cheer, diplomacy, courtesy, intelligence and enthusiasm."

These are truly wonderful colleagues, but I know that they are by no means unique in our Faculty, and I look forward already to the next round of nominations for the Dean's Awards, which I am positive will enable us to discover, recognize and celebrate even more exceptional contributors to our Faculty's success. I invite you to read the full citations for this year's award winners on the Faculty's website, at [http://artsandscience1.concordia.ca/news/archive.php?f=detail&news\\_id=43&start=0](http://artsandscience1.concordia.ca/news/archive.php?f=detail&news_id=43&start=0).

Please allow me to take advantage of this opportunity to extend to everyone who reads *Connections*, on behalf of all of us in the Faculty of Arts and Science, not only our thanks for your support of the Faculty, but our very best wishes for good health, great happiness and prosperity in 2007!

INSIDE

2

Liberal Arts College Students  
Experience Culture in New York City

3

Snapshots

4

Highlighting Excellence

### Connections Express

Would you like to receive the *Connections* Express, the Faculty of Arts and Science e-newsletter?  
Send us an email at [lynn.roy@concordia.ca](mailto:lynn.roy@concordia.ca) and we'll add you to our mailing list.



SINCE 1978, THE LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE (LAC) HAS PROVIDED A UNIQUE LEARNING OPPORTUNITY TO THE MORE THAN 1,000 STUDENTS who have passed through its doors. Upon learning of the College's unique great books, multidisciplinary Western Society and Culture Core Curriculum in 1980, Stanley Tucker was immediately drawn to the College's philosophy, which is designed to provide the foundation of an education for life. Since that time, Stanley and his wife Lois have been ardent supporters of the College and have traveled on numerous occasions with students on the annual cultural trips to New York City, as well as participating in many local LAC-sponsored events. The following article, by Stanley Tucker, provides a glimpse into their most recent trip.



Liberal Arts College students in front of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

# Liberal Arts College Students Experience Culture in New York City

By Stanley Tucker

*"To see the world in a grain of sand and heaven in a wild flower"*  
-William Blake

As we board our bus at 7:30 a.m. on a cold and windy October morning, Lois and I know that once again we, and most of the first year students studying at the Liberal Arts College, are going to share Blake's experience, as expressed above. We will see the world through art, theatre, opera and walking tours. But most importantly, we will have an opportunity to see the world through each other's eyes.

At the College's annual orientation session for new students which was held this past September, Lois and I learned first-hand what had motivated these very different but very enthusiastic people to apply for entry to the Liberal Arts College, with its demanding great books curriculum, extremely rich readings and high academic standards.

While in New York, new students had the opportunity to experience the originals of the periods and works they will be exposed to while at the Liberal Arts College. Ancient Egypt, classical Greece and Rome, Europe of the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, Baroque, Rococo, the art of all the ages up to the 21st century is all within the walls of a few buildings in one of

the most exciting cities in the world. They saw the gifts of art and culture that individuals have selflessly given to society over generations. Without these modern Medici, the Metropolitan, the Cloisters, the Frick, the Museum of Modern Art, the Morgan Library would not exist. Our trip was not only filled with art and museums, we also attended theatrical performances as well as Broadway productions, and visited Times Square, Greenwich Village, the chilling site of the World Trade Center, thronging Chinatown and bookstores galore.

One of the most memorable experiences of our trip was an evening spent at the Metropolitan Opera at a performance of *Cavalleria Rusticana* and *I Pagliacci*. I don't think any of the students had seen or heard a live performance before. To see their faces light up and feel their enthusiasm and passion is something Lois and I will never forget. But most importantly, for us, it is the bonding that occurred between the students through shared rooms, shared excitement and shared learning that truly provided a rich learning experience and set the tone for the years to come studying at the Liberal Arts College.

Hurrah for Liberal Arts College professors, who are teachers, mentors and exemplars, opening the minds and souls of youth!



Dr. Emery J. Hyslop-Margison



Sarah Frenkiel-Fishman

# Snapshots

- Congratulations to **Sarah Frenkiel-Fishman**, MA, PhD candidate, who was awarded the 2006 American Psychological Foundation/Council of Graduate Departments of Psychology (APF/COGDOP) Scholarship for her research, "A Longitudinal Study of Precursors of Theory of Mind." Around age 4–5, normally developing children gain a concept of their own and others' minds. This research seeks to specify some of the antecedents to this theory's development in children with and without autism.
- **The Department of Theological Studies** hosted a 3-day international colloquium from Oct. 11–13: "The Reception and Interpretation of the Bible in Late Antiquity." The event, which saw an average of 60 to 80 participants in attendance at 25 individual presentations, was organized by Dr. Lucian Turcescu, President, Canadian Society of Patristic Studies, and associate professor, Department of Theological Studies, and Dr. Lorenzo DiTommaso, assistant professor, Department of Theological Studies.
- **Dr. William Reimer**, professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, presented the New Rural Economy Project at the CRRF/NRRN/NRE2 Annual Conference 2006, held in Gatineau and Lanark from Oct. 26–28. The theme of the conference was "A Rural Canada Meeting of Minds." Dr. Reimer briefly outlined the objectives, perspectives, activities and key findings of the New Rural Economy Project at the conference, which brought together more than 160 people from across the country to discuss issues pertaining to rural Canada.
- **Dr. Carsten Wrosch**, associate professor, Department of Psychology, was awarded the CIHR New Investigator Award and IA Recognition Prize in Research in Aging. Dr. Wrosch's study will examine how adaptive self-regulation of common age-related challenges can protect the psychological and physical health of older adults.
- **Shawn K. Collins**, a graduate of Concordia University's Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, who now teaches in the Department of Chemistry of Université de Montréal, was awarded the Boehringer Ingelheim Young Investigator Award for Organic Chemistry.
- **Dr. Emery J. Hyslop-Margison**, Canada Research Chair and Director of the Institute for Democratic Learning in Career Education, Department of Education, was awarded the prestigious Spencer Foundation Grant for a two-year research project to evaluate the extent to which Canadian secondary level career education programs respect the principles and practices of democratic learning while preparing students effectively for future employment opportunities.
- **Dr. Michael Sacher**, assistant professor, Department of Biology, co-authored an article titled "The Architecture of the Multisubunit TRAPP I Complex Suggests a Model for Vesicle Tetherin," which was published in the November 17, 2006, edition of the science publication *Cell*.

# Highlighting EXCELLENCE

## DEAN'S CIRCLE RECEPTION

Some 100 alumni, friends, faculty and staff attended the Dean's Circle Reception on September 14, which was held to recognize and thank donors for their generous support during the 2005-2006 Annual Fund Campaign.



Former student Angela Alberga, BSc in Exercise Science, thanked everyone present, noting that it is because of their generous support that students are provided with opportunities to grow and flourish.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2005/06 ARTS AND SCIENCE SCHOLARS

Concordia University's Faculty of Arts and Science hosted a reception on Wednesday, October 4, to honour the 2005/06 Arts and Science Scholars and Departmental Award Winners.

Congratulations to all of this year's winners!



Scholars and Departmental Award Winners from the Departments of Classics, Modern Languages and Linguistics, Chemistry and Biochemistry and Psychology pose for pictures during the ceremony.

**Connections** is published four times a year by Concordia University's Faculty of Arts and Science. Its mandate is to provide current information on the many activities of the Faculty. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the Faculty or the University.

Dean: David Graham  
Communications Advisor: Lynn Roy  
Designer: Caroline Grainger, Concordia Marketing Communications  
Photographer: Sabrina Ratté, IITS; Ryan Blau, PBL Photography;  
Andrew Dobrowolsky  
Proofreader: Jane Jackel

Thanks to Harry Antecol, Heather Adams-Robinette, Linda Bell, Howard Bokser, Jasmine Fortin and Barbara Harris.

Please send comments or story ideas to:  
Lynn Roy, Communications Advisor, [lynn.roy@concordia.ca](mailto:lynn.roy@concordia.ca)  
c/o Faculty of Arts and Science  
7141 Sherbrooke St. West, Suite AD 328  
Montreal, Quebec, Canada H4B 1R6



**Concordia**  
UNIVERSITY

[artsandscience.concordia.ca](http://artsandscience.concordia.ca)